

Southwest Public Lands People

News for Public Lands employees, retirees & partners

Fall 2012

Chimney Rock designated a National Monument



WASHINGTON, D.C. - On September 21, 2012, President Obama signed a proclamation establishing Chimney Rock as a National Monument on the San Juan NF. The designation was made under the Antiquities Act with bipartisan support from Colorado officials, Native Americans, local businesses and other stakeholders.

"Thousands of people come every year to experience the cultural and spiritual significance of Chimney Rock," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This will bring new economic opportunity to the Four Corners as more visitors from around the world come to see this national treasure."

The 4,726-acre Chimney Rock National Monument becomes the seventh national monument managed by the USFS in collaboration with tribal, community, state and federal partners.

Chimney Rock is home to hundreds of structures built by the Ancestral Puebloans about 1,000 years ago, including the highest elevation ceremonial Great House in the Southwest.

Every 18.6 years, during the Northern Lunar Standstill, the moonrise is framed by Chimney Rock's rock pinnacles as seen from the Great House. Its structures also feature alignments with the summer and winter solstices, and fall and spring equinoxes. Today, descendants of the Ancestral Puebloans use Chimney Rock for spiritual and traditional purposes.

Chimney Rock is the third national monument designated by President Obama using the Antiquities Act. First exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming, the Antiquities Act has been used by 16 presidents since then to protect unique natural and historic features, including the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.



(Left-right) USFS Rocky Mountain Deputy Regional Forester Brian Ferebee, San Juan NF Pagosa District Ranger Kevin Khung, Regional Forester Dan Jiron, and San Juan NF Supervisor Mark Stiles at the dedication ceremony.



Chimney Rock Great House and pinnacles

Photo by Mark Roper

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

Bill Named Nevada Forest Supervisor

DURANGO - Bill Dunkelberger, BLM Colorado Ecoregional Specialist and former Associate Center Manager for San Juan Public Lands, leaves for Sparks, Nevada, in November to become Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF. As the largest national forest in the lower 48 states, the Humboldt-Toiyabe covers 6.3 million acres in Nevada and California and has 10 ranger districts.

"I've really enjoyed my time on the San Juan working with employees, partners and the beautiful landscape," Bill says. "One of my goals has always been to be a forest supervisor, and I'm looking forward to the challenges and opportunities in that position."

Bill is a great choice for the many resource issues on the Humboldt-Toiyabe, including livestock grazing, geothermal production, travel management, fire, some 50-plus developed recreation sites, scenic byways, urban interface and BLM interface. We all wish Bill the best as he takes on this new role.

- Mark Stiles



Richard Named FMO

DURANGO - Richard Bustamante has been named San Juan NF Fire Management Officer after filling in as FMO over the summer. He is overseeing the Durango Interagency Fire Dispatch Center, Helitack Crew, Tanker Base and San Juan Interagency Hotshot Crew, and coordinating with ranger districts.

Richard started his federal career in 1993 as a seasonal firefighter on the Apache/Sitgreaves NF in Arizona. His federal career includes work for the BLM as Engine Captain at the Farmington Field Office, Fire Operations Supervisor for the BLM Vale Field Office, Assistant FMO for the Magdalena RD of the Cibola NF and FMO for the Sandia RD of the Cibola NF.

Richard holds a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from New Mexico State University. He and wife, Katie, have two sons; Baily, 10, and Ethan.

- Ann Bond



Joni Has Headed South

DURANGO - Joni Dutcher, who served as San Juan NF Purchasing Agent for eight months, left this summer for Arizona to take the position of Purchasing Agent for the Prescott NF.

Joni came to us from the Santa Fe NF, where she was also a Purchasing Agent. Since starting her federal career in 1991, Joni has worked for the Small Business Administration, U.S. Navy and Army, DeCA, Department of Veterans Affairs and USFS.

- Ann Bond

Congrats are in Order

(BELOW) Landon Dean Kelley was born August 26, 2012, to Stephanie and Chasen Kelley weighing in at 7 lbs, 13 oz, and 20 inches long.



(ABOVE) Hazardous Fuels Specialist Justin Kincaid enjoying his new son, Rhys Samuel Kincaid, born Sept. 22 at 10:42pm, weighing in at 6 lbs 12 ounces and 19.5 inches long. Daughter, Hayden, almost 2, shares the photo, which was undoubtedly taken by busy mom Tina.

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

Brenda Receives USDA Award

DURANGO - USFS Special Agent Brenda Schultz received the Secretary's Award for Personal and Professional Excellence this fall for her contributions to wildland fire and arson investigations.

In addition to her work in fire investigation, Brenda has instructed hundreds of agency personnel in wildfire origin, cause determination and case development.

Her expertise has been recognized by land management agencies, and police and fire departments. She has also been internationally recognized as a leader in her field, serving twice on a wildland fire and arson investigation team in Greece.

Brenda is a technical expert and co-chair for the investigation subcommittee of the National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. She has also led development of curriculum, course revisions and handbooks.

Brenda has been called upon to oversee origin and cause investigations on several catastrophic wildfires, including the Hayman Fire, Coal Seam Fire and Wallow Fire. She has testified as an expert witness and most recently assisted the Topeka Kansas Police Department on a 2002 double homicide investigation.

- Laura Mark, Special Agent in Charge, USFS Rocky Mountain Region



USFS Special Agent Brenda Schultz (center) receiving the Secretary's Honor Award for Personal and Professional Excellence from USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan at the 64th Annual Honor Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

PUBLIC LANDS PARTNERS

Honoring SJMA Volunteers



(Left to Right foreground) USFS employees Brian White, Mark Lambert and Jed Botsford flipping burgers at the annual SJMA picnic.

DURANGO - USFS and BLM employees were more than glad to help out at the annual SJMA Volunteer/Member Appreciation Picnic in August. More than 100 San Juan Mountains Association volunteers attended the event.

In Fiscal Year 2012, SJMA volunteers contributed more than 15,000 hours on local projects on USFS and BLM lands. SJMA has been partner with the agencies since 1988.

- Ann Bond

MSI Helps Restore Iron Fen

SILVERTON - A rare high-elevation iron fen on the slopes of Ophir Pass is under restoration, thanks to the Mountain Studies Institute and grants from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, USFS, Durango Mountain Resort and National Forest Foundation. Volunteers from MSI, Colorado Mountain Club and San Juan Citizens Alliance provided manual labor. The groundwater-sustained basin of peat had been damaged by past mining in the area.

Fens were formed 8,000 to 10,000 years ago as glaciers retreated at the end of the Ice Age.

They provide important research opportunities, store and filter clean water, and sequester carbon.

Iron fens are rare; of the 13 known in North America, five are found in the San Juan Mountains.

- Ann Bond



COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT

TV Glad to Help Out

Members of the Five Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited rolled up their sleeves this summer to help improve fish habitat and fishing opportunities on the main stem of Hermosa Creek.

TU contributed funds from its *Embrace a Stream* grant for topsoil, grass seed and equipment rental, and local chapter members supplied manpower for in-stream hand work.



Columbine District Ranger Matt Janowiak; On behalf of the Five Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Durango, I want to express our thanks to the Forest Service for its work on Hermosa Creek in preparation for the reintroduction of our native cutthroat trout.



We were very excited when Dave Gerhardt and Clay Kampf invited us to participate in this project. In all, 15 of our members contributed 152 manhours to the project, and our chapter covered about \$1,800 in expenses.

This is exactly the sort of hands-on, boots-on-the-ground activity that our members have been looking for. Hermosa Creek is very special to most of us, as is the reintroduction of our native cutthroats. We look forward to and are hopeful for future involvement in trout habitat restoration efforts in our area.

*Respectfully,
Frank (Buck) Skillen, Board Member, Past President*

(Left - Right) Trout Unlimited volunteers Kyle Ouzts and Ken Baker help Columbine staffers Clay Kampf and Skip Fischer position a root wad into the bank of Hermosa Creek to provide additional cover and habitat for fish.

Microgrant Will Help Save Energy

BAYFIELD - The San Juan NF received a Sustainable Operations Microgrant this summer to help conserve energy at the Columbine RD Fire Crew Building.

The microgrant of \$4,000 was used to replace a 30-year-old natural gas furnace, which posed potential health and safety risks from gas leaks or furnace failure because of its outdated condition. An Energy Star-rated furnace was installed to reduce energy usage through greater fuel efficiency and a programmable thermostat to reduce the period the building is heated.



Energy use will be tracked and utility bills monitored to obtain actual energy and emission reductions.

The project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than half by using natural gas, and should result in a 32% overall reduction in energy consumption (natural gas and electricity) at the building.

- Mary Blanchard

The new Lennox EL195 furnace installed at Columbine with the help of a sustainable operations microgrant.

Congrats!



Liam David Quinlan was born to Cheri and Brit Quilan on July 18 weighing a healthy 7 pounds 9 ounces and 20.5 inches long.

PAGOSA RANGER DISTRICT

Weeds B Gone

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Thanks to the work of volunteer weed warriors this summer, the weed population and potential for spread in the Turkey Springs area has been greatly reduced.

Volunteers got together with the help of Pagosa RD Wilderness Ranger Ros Wu to put a dent in an infestation of invasive musk and Canada thistle in Gopher Meadow.

They removed seed heads from the plants and placed them in plastic bags. Bags were sealed with water and placed in the sun to rot before being disposed of in the trash.

Musk thistle lives two years and reproduces only by seed, producing up to 20,000 seeds per plant (Canada thistle spreads through roots and by seeds).

The weed problem in Gopher Meadow has been strikingly reduced, but has not been eradicated and will require follow-up treatment.

- Phyllis Wheaton



Volunteers Al and Stephany Bouchier, Diane Gutman, Gary Hopkins, Mike and Nancy Ray, and Ian Roth whack weeds in Gopher Meadow.



Dear Mr. Stiles,

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce I would like to extend our appreciation for the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service during the 2012 Little Sand Fire.

The local Ranger District office was extremely busy answering phone calls and sending out communication on a regular basis, and in our job, nothing could have been more helpful.

I particularly want to commend Pagosa District Ranger Kevin Khung. Everyone wants to be a Monday morning quarterback and decide how the fire should have been handled, and Kevin certainly took his share of criticism, yet he handled it all with the utmost of professionalism and communicated his decisions clearly and decisively.

What impressed me most was his concern for our community and how the fire affected our local businesses. Kevin tried to distribute economic benefits throughout the community, engaging numerous vendors to provide meals, lodging and other needs for fire effort. He worked to help those located nearest the fire to limit impacts to their businesses.

It was a difficult year for our region and state, but I just want you to know that from where we sit, Kevin Khung and his staff were first rate.

- Mary Jo Coulehan, Executive Director,
Pagosa Spring Area Chamber of Commerce

Robert is On His Way

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Robert Emmons, Pagosa RD Visitor Information Specialist since August, 2010, left the San Juan to take the position of Administrative Support Assistant for the Tonto NF Payson RD.

Robert says he will be working with USFS employees he previously worked with on the Coronado NF.

We wish Robert the best of luck in his new endeavors.

- Paul Blackman



DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



Matt is Certified

DOLORES - Congratulations to Matt Rathbone, Dolores RD Pre-sale Forester, on becoming a certified silviculturist this summer. The certification means he can now independently write stand- and land-management prescriptions.

After completing five two-week modules over two years, Matt defended his 30-page detailed silvicultural prescription on a ponderosa pine stand in the Rock Springs planning area in front of a panel of experts.

The Dolores RD appreciates all the hard work Matt has put into this and look forward to working with him on many timber, silviculture and restoration projects in the future.

- Mark Krabath



Gardiner is Gone

DOLORES – Todd Gardiner, Dolores RD Forester/Silviculturist since 1998, left this summer to take the position of Timber Program Lead for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NFs Ouray and Norwood RDs. He went right to work on a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program for the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Todd says he's busy with restoration of mixed conifer and pine forests, aspen sales, spruce sales, and beetle salvage sales. He also has plans for forest-health projects to mitigate beetle issues at the Telluride Ski Area and Amphitheater Campground. Todd and wife, Alisa, and their girls, Addy and Maisy, are living in Ridgway.

- Toni Kelly



Jared is New BLM Mapper

DOLORES - Jared Scott is the new Geographic Information Systems Coordinator for the BLM Tres Rios FO. His duties include teaching GIS software to staff, analyzing data, map making and managing data. Jared comes from Grand Canyon, Arizona, where he was GIS Coordinator for the Kaibab NF.

Jared also has experience as a forest ecologist and has researched disturbance histories and interactions of subalpine forests in Rocky Mountain NP using tree-ring data. He also worked with dwarf mistletoe taxonomy and aspen ecology.

Jared holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Geography from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, respectively.

Jared grew up on Colorado's Front Range and enjoys running in all seasons. He competed for the U.S. in the World Mountain Running Championships in Albania last year and plans on running in the World Snowshoe Championships in Italy in 2013. Jared and wife, Marybeth Garmoe, an invasive plant biologist at Grand Canyon NP, have three dogs; Belle, Granola and Oso.

- Toni Kelly



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